

INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) BIOSECURITY ADVISORY (Update #5 – Niagara Region)

January 25, 2021

ALL INTERESTED POULTRY FARMERS IN RECEIPT OF THIS COMMUNICATION ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND A DIGITAL INFORMATION SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27 AT 9:00AM.

PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER.

On behalf of the four feather boards, the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is issuing this 5th update to the [Dec. 1 ILT Disease Biosecurity Advisory](#). Two more broiler chicken farms have been diagnosed with Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT); that makes **7 infected premises (IP) since the onset of this outbreak**. The [Biosecurity Advisory Area](#) has again been expanded south-eastwards to accommodate two 10km radii where the risk is highest.

Both Infected Premises IP6 and IP7 reported increased mortality late last week. Subsequent lab tests confirmed ILT. Mortalities to date on both premises are mainly confined to one floor out of multiple 2-storey barns. Owners are working with their veterinarian and board staff to resolve the situation.

The other 5 infected premises seem stable currently. Clean up protocols have been completed and new vaccinated chicks placed in the 3 broiler chicken farms. Mortalities have returned to normal in the layer and pullet flocks. All 7 premises are still considered to be “infected premises” so heightened biosecurity, careful monitoring of flock health and rapid reporting throughout the expanded Biosecurity Advisory Area is paramount.

Travel within the Area by all service providers or auditors should be restricted to essential travel. Necessary multiple stops within the area should be sequenced from lower risk to higher risk. Clean clothing and proper vehicle disinfection are critical. Stops in this Area should be last of the day. Please try to avoid going to another farm within 24 hours. Board staff are adhering to these protocols and it is expected all of industry will do the same.

Active virus pressures are clearly still present in the area. This highly contagious virus can survive in litter and on equipment and can even spread through dust particles in the air. The incubation period can be up to two weeks before clinical signs appear. Please exercise caution. All poultry farmers and growers should notify their veterinarian and their respective Board immediately if their flocks experience increased mortality or abnormal clinical signs. **To protect your incoming broiler chicks, we recommend that you discuss vaccination and other preventive measures with your veterinarian.** Any shipment of poultry products should be carefully routed to minimize risk of spread.

This virus is not transmissible to humans or to other mammals and the chicken is safe to eat. Consumers can be assured that Ontario poultry farmers follow world-leading bio-security protocols.

It is likely the Biosecurity Advisory Area will be maintained until at least early March. All previous updates to this outbreak and resource materials are available at www.fbcc.ca.

